



FULWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending 31st. December, 1949.



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
"LARCH HOUSE"
4, LYTHAM ROAD,
FULWOOD.
LANCS.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending December, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council of the Urban District of Fulwood.

Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report upon the Health of Fulwood for the year 1949. It is the tenth Annual Report which I have presented to the Council, and as it marks the end of a decade of years it would appear to be appropriate to take stock in this report of what has taken place during that period, and also to endeavour to look forward for future trends of progress. It is always difficult to forecast the future, but with a background of experience extending over many years and knowledge of the changes taking place it may be possible to give some indication of the lines along which events may take shape.

The realms of prophecy are, of course, out of place in a report of this nature, but it might be useful to summarise the present position and to indicate what may be necessary in the days to come.

In a world disturbed by national quarrels and aspirations, by wars on a gigantic scale involving every member of the community and with the loss of life greatest in the most virile section of the population, it will be obvious that the average age of the population is steadily rising.

In consequence, more and more attention must be devoted to the preservation of life in the younger ages and increasing provision must be made for persons who have reached the later years of life.

All the efforts of Preventive Medicine have been devoted during the last eighty years to improve not only the health of the community, but to increase the span of life of the individual. The length of years of the individual is largely determined by the quality of health in the earlier years of life. Therefore more and greater efforts have been devoted to the care of babies and infants.

Those measures have been singularly successful, and the most rapid progress was made in the period between the two wars. The fruits of those efforts are now being reaped.

The ageing population is perhaps a less urgent problem, but it is one which may become more pressing in the future. Efforts must be directed not only to ease their physical needs, but to increase their comfort physically, mentally, and psychologically. It will probably be necessary in the future development plans of a district to make increasing provision of easily worked and arranged houses or flats to meet this problem.

The present report, as in past years, contains the statistical figures, relating to the Births, Deaths and other sectional mortality rates which have been supplied by the Registrar-General and the County Health Department, but where it has been found possible to do so, comparative figures covering the last decade are shown. The major portion of the report is, of course, an account of the work undertaken during the year to maintain and improve the health of the district by the Health Department of this Authority. It will, it is hoped, depict broadly the work carried out by the department throughout the year as well as supplying the detailed information of each section of that work.

It is perhaps unfortunate in a report upon such an intimate subject as health that it is necessary to publish so many tables of figures, which are liable to tire the reader before their import is grasped.

Any report upon the health of a district suffers a loss by the absence of reliable figures of the morbidity state of the area. Such details are available for the diseases which are notifiable, but are not available for those other diseases such as Rheumatism and the Catarrhal Diseases which affect the population generally and which immobilise individual members of the community for varying periods during the year. In other words there is still a wide gap between the authorities dealing with positive health (or disease prevention) and the administration of negative health (or the treatment of disease).

The National Health Service Act, which might have made an attempt to narrow this gap, has, in fact, widened it by creating more watertight compartments, and by its emphasis upon the treatment of the disease rather than its prevention. The Act in its present form would have been more appropriately named "The National Remedial Services Act."

The District Sanitary Authority has had many of its disease prevention powers transferred to the County Council, but this aspect of the Act was fully explained in last year's Annual Report. The Divisional system set up under the Act by the County Council to administer those transferred powers is discharging these functions quite satisfactorily.

The environmental services, the only ones left to the Local Sanitary Authority, have been administered as in past years, with particular emphasis upon the cleanliness of milk, the purity of ice cream, and the necessity for the hygienic storage and sale of food generally. The investigation into and control of Infectious Disease is fortunately still the prerogative of the Local Authority.

Recent legislation has, however, tended still further to reduce the functions of the Local Sanitary Authority by transferring the power to register milk producers from the Authority to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Formerly one Government Department—the Ministry of Health—dealt entirely with the quality, purity and registration of milk suppliers through Local Authorities, whilst the Ministry of Agriculture was responsible for the quality and health of the milk-producing herd. Now three Departments—Health, Food, and Agriculture each dabble in this matter, and the Local Authority with its staff trained and experienced over years, is gradually being frozen out. The explanation offered for this new procedure was that Local Authorities had failed to carry out their obligations in past years. Whilst this may have been true in some instances, any deficiencies which existed were the result of the shortages of staff. The staff established was approved by the Ministry concerned, and approval of increases was difficult to obtain.

The new set-up has yet to win its spurs, but it is not difficult to imagine that amongst the multiplicity of counsellors, the product may fail to improve, and even deteriorate. Pasteurisation, whilst valuable, is not the universal panacea for all faults of production at the farm.

The Local Authority is still responsible for ensuring that its population obtains a milk which is bacteriologically pure, whilst the County Council, the Food and Drug Authority, is responsible for the assessment of its quality.

Over the last ten years this Authority has devoted time and money to improve the purity of its milk supply. It is gratifying to be able to report that these efforts have not been unsuccessful.

Similar efforts have been made, particularly since the war ended, to ensure that ice cream—almost now a necessity for the younger population—also is of satisfactory quality and purity. These efforts also have borne fruit.

The question of food generally has been, and is, a much more difficult one. In times of shortages and of bulk buying, with consequent storage in bulk over periods that in many cases are much too long, food of the quality in common use before the recent war can no longer be expected. Outbreaks of food-poisoning, of rare occurrence before the war, are now of frequent occurrence. It has been observed on many occasions that the human race is not naturally a clean one; it has to be taught to be so. In the handling of food during delivery to the shops, in the shops, and in its preparation for consumption, the failure of the individual to observe even the most elementary hygienic precautions can be seen constantly.

Much more stringent regulations dealing with the handling and storage of food are required, with heavier penalties for failure to obey the regulations. The methods of delivery of meat and bacon to the shops have frequently been criticised, and not without cause. Education of the cooking, kitchen, and larder staffs of establishments preparing food for consumption for large numbers of persons is also a prime necessity.

Truly it can be paraphrased that "The price of purity is eternal vigilance."

The year 1949 was not marked by any outbreak of Infectious Disease of any serious import. The epidemic of Measles of a mild but infectious character continued into the early part of the year. There was an average number of cases of Scarlet Fever, mostly sporadic in distribution, of a mild type, and never in epidemic form.

Poliomyelitis was fortunately absent from the district. One of the most significant facts in the question of Infectious Diseases has been the increase in the number of cases of Poliomyelitis in the country generally. Formerly known as Infantile Paralysis, it is now no longer only a disease of the young, nor does Paralysis always supervene. The number of cases sustaining brain involvement with or without affection of the Spinal Cord has been a prominent feature of many of the recent outbreaks of this disease. Better notification undoubtedly accounts for a certain proportion of the increased number of cases, but the increased prevalence is probably due to an increased number of carriers in the population. The disease itself is probably not a single one but a group of virus diseases closely allied. As cases when notified now have to be divided into Paralytic or Non-Paralytic, further record will probably succeed in producing in the future a more exact differentiation of this group. Many severe cases still do occur, but the proportion of them is not high. Undoubtedly many illnesses of a transient nature make their appearance in an area before any cases developing paralysis appear and are not usually regarded as part of the outbreak. If more exact means of diagnosis were available in the early stages a more reliable figure of the numbers of cases occurring would be obtained.

An increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified and also of the deaths from the disease must be reported. The notifications were 15 (10 in 1948) and the deaths 9 (1 in 1948).

It was mentioned in last year's report that the Tuberculosis Service had been transferred in the main, from the County Council to the Regional Hospital Board. In the view of many competent experts of the disease this step is of a retrograde nature. Tuberculosis cannot be considered to be a chest disease only, in fact it is an environmental disease, and its treatment, control, and prevention form an environmental problem which can only be solved and controlled by all the forces of the Local Authority.

The whole structure of the service which had been so successful in the past in controlling the disease and reducing the numbers of cases, was based upon the Tuberculosis dispensary as originally conceived and operated by Dr. W. R. Philip of Edinburgh. This structure was extended and elaborated as required and might be considered to have reached its zenith, in the magnificent organisation developed in Lancashire by Dr. Lissant Cox. In this organisation, the Dispensary, the Sanatorium, the Hospital, home treatment, isolation, disinfection of the home, observation of contacts, extra food, etc., all had their part and it can only be a matter of regret to all competent observers that such a splendid organisation appears to be in a process of disintegration by a duality of control. Perhaps wiser councils in the future may recognize the necessity for the control

of this disease as an environmental problem of many aspects and return its administrative control and treatment to the Local Authorities which had developed such an efficient service in past years.

No report of a Medical Officer of Health can be considered complete which does not contain some comments upon housing. This is one of the most pressing problems of these times not only from a health point of view, but also from the psychological effect on the population generally. But one other aspect must be considered, the increasing average age of the population and the consequent large numbers of older people who are no longer fully mobile nor capable of managing a home of our present type.

At the present time many houses are occupied by persons of the older ages which are more suitable for family houses, and are unsuitable for older persons to manage and cleanse on account of high ceilings, passages, inconvenient arrangements, and too many rooms. Some form of small flat or bungalow would be more suitable for such persons.

Finally, attention may be drawn to the Report of the Departmental Committee on the "Export and Slaughter of Horses." In this report criticism was passed upon certain slaughter houses, but a favourable opinion was expressed about the condition of the slaughter house in this area. This word of commendation is a testimony to the efforts of the Council to ensure that the slaughter of horses for human consumption is carried out under reasonably hygienic conditions.

Physical Features of the Area.

The Urban District covers an area which is roughly oblong in shape, with a long axis lying between East and West. The height of the district above the datum line is 190 feet in the North-East, falling to 55 feet in the South-East, with gentle rises and falls characterising the whole area.

Within the district there are three streams flowing from East to West, Savick Brook, Sharoe Brook and Eaves Brook forming the Southern Boundary of the area, separating it from the County Borough of Preston. Geologically the area is part of the Lancashire Plain, which is floored with red rocks of the Triassic age. (These rocks may be seen at the base of the Cliffs at Blackpool.) Superficial to the rocks are three layers of Glacial Drift: The Lower Boulder Clay, the Drift Sand and the Upper Boulder Clay. The depths of these three layers vary throughout the district. In the North-Eastern part there are many bluffs which are composed entirely of drift sand with a covering of Upper Boulder Clay varying in thickness. Some of the bluffs consist of a core of Boulder Clay and a surround of Drift Sand. All the bluffs rest on a base of Lower Boulder Clay many feet thick. At the Western side of the district the Upper Boulder Layer is 22 feet in thickness resting upon 30 feet of sand, with a varying layer of Lower Boulder Clay underneath. The Triassic Rock surface is a little above the existing sea level, but presents a gentle inclined plane rising to the Pennines, and the Glacial Drift layers upon it often reach 170 feet in thickness. The Pebbles and Boulders found in the Drift Layers consist of Yore dale Grits, Limestone, Lake District Traps, Granite, Volcanic Ash, and occasionally Criffel Granite. Water-bearing seams occur at the surface of the Lower Boulder Clay and on thin beds of Clay in the Middle Drift.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Area in Acres | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,268 |
| Population (Census 1931) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7,387 |
| Registrar-General's estimate of Population Mid-1949 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12,660 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,501 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (Rate Book 1949) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,556 |
| Rateable Value | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £86,236 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £353 |

Social Conditions and Amenities of the District.

The district is a residential one with Dairy Farms at the periphery, and a small amount of cultivation in these farms. A steam Laundry employs local labour and represents industry.

There are seven Churches in the district representing various denominations. Four of these possess Church Halls which are used for activities of religious and social characters for the benefit of their congregations and the people of the district. Concerts, Dances, Dramatic Art and Lectures are held at these Halls throughout the year.

Recreation and Sports were well catered for by a Golf Club, three Tennis Clubs, a Bowling Green (and many greens at Hotels), a Sports Club and Youth Centre with sports sections.

In the two Council Schools in the district there are many evening activities, and in one denominational school a successful band has been in existence for many years.

In addition, many organisations of local inhabitants exist for the purpose of lectures, debates and discussions upon affairs of national and local interest.

There are several Institutions in the area, some for the housing of those in the declining years of life, and others for the rising generations.

There was no evidence of unemployment amongst the inhabitants of the district in 1949.

Vital Statistics.

| Births. | 1949 | | |
|---------------------|-------|----|-------|
| | M. | F. | Total |
| Live Births— | | | |
| Legitimate | 87 | 62 | 149 |
| Illegitimate | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| Total | 89 | 67 | 156 |
| | | | |
| Still Births— | M. | F. | Total |
| Legitimate | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |
| | <hr/> | | |
| Total | 1 | 1 | 2 |

Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)—13.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 Year per 1,000 Births—51.

Death Rate of legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate Births—54.

Death Rate of illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate Births—Nil.

| Deaths. | 1949 | | |
|--|-------|------|-------|
| | M. | F. | Total |
| | 91 | 109 | 200 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| Death rate per 1,000 of population from all causes | | 15·8 | |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | | 24 | |
| Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis | | 9 | |
| Deaths from Puerperal Causes | | Nil | |
| Deaths from Measles | | 1 | |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough | | Nil | |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | | 1 | |

Table of Comparative Statistics.

| Per 1,000 of Population | | | | | | Maternal Mortality Rate | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------|--|--------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Live Birth Rate | Crude Death Rate | Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis | | Death Rate from Cancer | Per 1000 Live Births | Per 1000 Total Live and Still Births | Infantile Mortality Rate |
| Mean 5 years. 1939-43 | 13.2 | 1.47 | ProvsL. | 0.29 | 1.84 | 3.83 | 3.62 | 41 |
| Mean 5 years. 1944-48 | 14.8 | 15.6 | | 0.46 | 2.05 | 1.15 | 1.12 | 49 |
| 1948 | 14.8 | 11.6 | | 0.07 | 1.65 | Nil | Nil | 15 |
| 1949 | 12.3 | *15.8 | | 0.55 | 1.90 | Nil | Nil | 51 |
| County of Lancaster (1949) | 15.99 | 12.72 | 13.74 | 0.34 | 1.81 | 0.99 | 0.97 | 38 |
| England and Wales (1949) | 17.0 | 11.8 | Nil | 0.40 | 1.87 | N.A. | 0.98 | 32 |
| Increase or decrease in 1949 on 5 years Average 1944-48 for Fulwood | -2.5 | +0.2 | | +0.09 | -0.15 | -1.15 | -1.12 | +2 |
| Previous year... .. | -2.5 | +4.2 | | +0.048 | +0.25 | Nil | Nil | +36 |

* 1949 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor, 0.84) = 13.3 per 1,000.

N.A.—Not Available.

These tables show slight decreases in rates for Cancer. The Maternal Mortality was again nil in 1949, and the Infantile Mortality showed a distinct increase on the former year.

These statistics were those supplied by the Registrar General and the Public Health Department of the County Council.

Population.

In 1931 the population of Fulwood was 7,387. In this number were included some 2,000 residents in Institutions. The number of these residents was approximately the same in 1949.

For 1949 the Registrar General estimated the population of the district to be 12,660, a decrease of 20 on the figure for 1948.

Deaths and Death Rate.

The tables are corrected for inward and outward transfers. The Crude Death Rate was slightly lower than was that for the five-year period 1944-1948, and also lower than the preceding period 1939-1943, when the rate was 14.7. An analysis of the causes of death in 1949 is given below:

| Analysis of Causes of Death | | | | | | | | 1949 | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|
| | | | | | | | | M. | F. | Total |
| Heart Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 | 42 | 70 |
| Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 17 | 25 |
| Other Diseases of the Circulation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Cancer all sites | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 | 12 | 24 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| Pneumonia and Influenza | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 10 | 17 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Diseases of Digestion | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Nephritis (Kidney Diseases) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Prematurity, Congenital Defects, Malformations | | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Acute Inf. Encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Gastric Ulcer | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Road Traffic Accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| Other Violent Causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| All other causes | ... | . | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| Total all causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 92 | 106 | 198 |

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

The number of deaths from the Pulmonary form of the disease showed a large increase upon the previous year. No deaths occurred from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Deaths from Malignant Diseases.

The number of deaths from Cancer and other Malignant Diseases showed an increase from 21 to 23.

Infantile Mortality.

The rate was higher than that of Lancashire generally and of England and Wales. In the table below is given an analysis of the causes of death of infants under one year. In these days of increased facilities for treatment half of these deaths would appear to have been preventable.

| | M. | F. | Total |
|---------------------|----|----|-------|
| Legitimate | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |
| | 3 | 5 | 8 |

Infantile Mortality Rate for Fulwood—51.

Infantile Mortality Rate for Lancashire—38.

Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales—32.

| | M. | F. |
|--------------------------------|----|----|
| Atelectasis | 1 | 1 |
| Acute Gastro Enteritis | — | 1 |
| Haemalytic Anaemia | — | 1 |
| Measles and Convulsions | — | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 2 | — |

General Provisions of Health Services of the Area.

Medical Officer of Health:—G. G. Wray, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Not in General Practice).

OTHER PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS—

M.O.H. Leyland U.D.C.

M.O.H. Longridge U.D.C.

M.O.H., Walton-le-Dale U.D.C.

M.O.H. Preston R.D.C.

Divisional Medical Officer—Lancashire C.C. Health Division 4.

Sanitary Inspector:—R. Graham, M.R.San.I., Nat. Dip. Agri. (Whole time).

Certifying Factory Surgeon:—Mr. A. Toulmin, Ribblesdale Place, Preston.

Laboratory Service.

The District Laboratory at the Preston Royal Infirmary provided the technical assistance necessary for the examination of Bacteriological and Pathological specimens. It also was used for the Bacteriological examination of milks, ice cream and water where necessary.

With the new arrangements the examination of specimens does not impose any expense upon the authority, but, on the other hand, that information which was previously available of the results of these examinations is not now supplied.

Reports were not issued to Local Authorities after July, 1948.

Ambulance Service.

This is now the responsibility of the County Council. The local service is under the control of Health Division No. 4. The service is available for every class of case to and from hospital, for accidents, and for any other purpose when an ambulance or sitting case car is required.

No complaints have been received of any deficiency in the service.

Nursing in the Home.

Under the National Service Act all domiciliary nursing became the responsibility of the County Council and was delegated by them to the Health Divisions. In this area the District Nurses were also District Nurse Widwives, and three of them were resident in the Urban District. They are:—

Miss Margaret E. Johnson, C.M.B., S.R.

Miss Slack, C.M.B., S.R.,

Miss Elizabeth Johnson, C.M.B., S.R.,

19, Highfield Drive,

“Brynville,” Cadley Causeway,

Broughton.

Fulwood. Telephone 86368.

Telephone—Broughton 176.

The number of Maternity cases attended by them was 29.

Hospital Accommodation.

| | |
|--|---|
| General Diseases. —(1) Preston Royal Infirmary. | } <i>Of the Preston & District Hospital Management Committee's Group Hospitals.</i> |
| (2) Sharoe Green Municipal Hospital. | |
| (3) Mount Street Hospital. | |

The hospitals provided accommodation and treatment for both Medical and Surgical cases.

Maternity. All these Hospitals provided beds in separate blocks or sections of the Hospitals. The facilities for treatment were excellent.

Infectious Diseases. These cases are the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board once they are admitted to hospital. The Deepdale Isolation Hospital took charge of all such cases. Twelve of the patients were admitted to this hospital during the year. There is at the moment a certain amount of loss of that liaison between the hospital authorities and the local sanitary authority which existed under the former arrangements. Information as to the admission and discharge of patients is somewhat tardy and in some cases this has delayed disinfection of houses which had to be undertaken at the time later than could be considered wholly desirable.

Small-pox. No cases of this disease were notified, but had any cases occurred, isolation and treatment could have been obtained at Elswick Joint Small-pox Hospital.

Malignant Disease. A special section of the Preston Royal Infirmary officered with personnel from the Christie Cancer Hospital, Manchester, was used by patients from this district. X-ray, Radium, and other forms of treatment were available in this section.

Services Provided by the County Council for the Area.

Ante-Natal. The Clinics previously established at the Preston Royal Infirmary and Sharoe Green Hospital and run by a specialist Service provided jointly by the Hospitals and the County Council, became the entire responsibility of the Preston Hospital Management Committee and were staffed and run by them.

No Ante-Natal Clinic was provided by the County Council in this area, or by them in the closely adjoining areas.

Child Welfare. The Centre established in this district in 1944 by the County Council met weekly throughout the year at the Parochial Hall, Victoria Road. It may be noted that in spite of free inspection and treatment at Practitioners Surgeries, and at Hospitals, the number of children in attendance was almost similar to that of the previous year, and the number of attendances with the increased number of sessions (now weekly instead of fortnightly) showed a gratifying increase.

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Under one year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 149 |
| From one to two years | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 75 |
| Over two years | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 45 |
| | | | | | | <hr/> |
| Total individual children | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 269 |
| | | | | | | <hr/> |

They made attendances as follows:—

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Under one year of age | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1444 |
| From one to two years | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 270 |
| Over two years of age | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 146 |
| | | | | | | — |
| Total number of attendances | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1860 |
| | | | | | | — |
| Number of Sessions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 46 |

In addition to the supervision of the babies in the district at this Centre, the County Council Health Visitor paid frequent visits to homes to give advice, to make inspections, and to make arrangements for treatment where necessary. She visited 468 homes during the year for these purposes, and in all made 1,126 visits.

School Children. Medical inspections in the schools, and inspections made there by the School Nurse, were continued throughout the year. For the purpose of following up those children where treatment was required or where it was desirable to keep them under observation, the School Nurse visited 30 homes in the period under review, and in all made 49 visits to these homes. The nearest School Clinic for children of this district is at Longridge, where facilities for treatment of minor ailments, Ophthalmic and Dental conditions are available.

The Preston Royal Infirmary, as in past years, was extensively used for the treatment of School Children under the County Council scheme during 1949.

It is a matter for regret to have to report that no further progress has been made with the establishment of the School Clinic in this area. This has been a long-standing deficiency which might be corrected by the provision of a Health Centre in the District, but it must be stated that Health Centres are only likely to be established in the very distant future.

Tuberculosis. It has already been mentioned in this report that a different system of administration is now in force to deal with this group of diseases. The County Council still provide the Nursing Staff and the buildings for the Dispensaries and all the follow-up and after care organisation, but the Regional Hospital Board the medical staff. A division of authority rarely provides an ideal method of control.

Tuberculosis Notifications and Deaths.

1949

| Age Period Years | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-----|-----------------|-----|-------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0—1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 1—5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5—10 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 10—15 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 15—20 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 20—25 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 25—35 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... |
| 35—45 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | ... | ... |
| 45—55 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| 55—65 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 65 up | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Totals | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 2 | ... | ... |
| | 12 | | 3 | | 9 | | Nil | |

Tuberculosis Treatment.

Number of admissions to Hospital or Sanatorium—9.

Number removed from Register as recovered—1.

Number of deaths—9.

Remaining on Register, December, 1949 (M. 29; F. 23)—52.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES.

The Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

The table below gives an analysis of the cases of Infectious Diseases during 1949.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis.)

| Notifiable Diseases 1949 | Total Cases Notified | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| | Total Cases All ages | Age Periods—Years | | | | | | | | | | | | Total Deaths |
| | | Under 1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-35 | 35-45 | 45-65 | 65 up | |
| Scarlet Fever | 18 | .. | 1 | .. | 4 | .. | 10 | 2 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Diphtheria | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Measles | 91 | 5 | 25 | .. | 26 | .. | 31 | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Whooping Cough | 7 | .. | 4 | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Acute Pneumonia | 8 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | 4 | .. | 6 |
| Puerpural Pyrexia | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 3 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Food Poisoning | 4 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. |
| Erysipelas | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. |
| Totals | 136 | 7 | 31 | .. | 32 | .. | 42 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 6 | .. | .. |

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The number of children immunised during the year was 144. Of these 140 were under school age and 4 of school age. The total showed an increase of 127 as compared with the previous year. Medical Practitioners protected some of the children, and the others received their protective inoculation from the Divisional Medical Officer. In addition 87 children received reinforcement doses.

An estimate of the child population of the district for mid-1949 was 9,59 in the under school group, and 2,038 in the school group.

In this district a certain number of children were immunised privately, in many cases in conjunction with a serum protecting against Whooping Cough. The County Council School Nurse in the course of her visits ascertains the proportion of children immunised privately.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The efforts which had been devoted in past years to improve the purity of milk in this area were continued and intensified in 1949. Inspections of farms and dairies, advice and example to the producers and frequent sampling of the products were all parts of this campaign to encourage the production of a better and purer supply of milk.

In the future these activities will be limited by the new arrangements to control the production of a pure milk supply. It has been in the past one of the most valuable parts of this work to visit and inspect the farms at frequent intervals, and particularly to ensure that the dairy and utensils were kept in a hygienic condition. This part of the work is no longer the responsibility of the Local Authority—it has been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture. Until sufficient staff has been trained for the Ministry, inspections at the farm must inevitably be carried out much less frequently by them, and this would appear to be the position at the present time. The Local Authority's staff may only visit the farm for the purpose of the control of Infectious Disease or to obtain samples of milk.

It is earnestly to be desired that the excellent system built up in the past and yielding results of a satisfactory nature, may not in the course of the changes now taking place suffer a serious decline from its former excellency.

The number of dairy farms in the district was 49, with approximately 950 cows.

There were 8 Dairymen other than Cow-keepers with premises in the district.

Twelve of the 9 producers in the district also retailed milk in Fulwood, and there were 12 other milk retailers with premises outside the district.

During the year 174 visits were made to farms in the district, and 67 visits to Dairies.

The number of samples of ungraded milk produced or retailed in the district taken and submitted to bacteriological tests for purity was 185 compared with 184 in 1948. Of these 157 were satisfactory and 28 unsatisfactory, the percentage of unsatisfactory samples being 15% as compared with 21% in 1948. The reduction in the number of unsatisfactory samples was chiefly in milk of local producers.

There were 140 samples tested for the presence of Tubercle Bacillus. Of these 137 were free and three were found to contain the germ. All the samples of school milk examined were satisfactory, the tests being taken for efficiency of Pasteurisation by this Authority, and tests for the presence of Tubercle Bacillus by the Lancashire County Council.

It is essential to test the bacterial quality of milk which has been pasteurised in order to ascertain the efficiency or otherwise of the heat treatment. Thirty samples were taken during the year for this purpose. The tests showed that 26 samples were efficiently treated and 4 were not correctly pasteurised. The steps necessary to ascertain the causes of the failures were taken and advice given to prevent a recurrence.

The tables given below set out the details of the results of tests made in the last six years:—

Bacteriological.

| | Samples taken. | | Satisfactory. | | Unatisfactory. | | Per cent Satisfactory. |
|------|----------------|-----|---------------|-----|----------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1944 | ... | 146 | ... | 98 | ... | 48 | 67 |
| 1945 | ... | 122 | ... | 86 | ... | 36 | 70 |
| 1946 | ... | 101 | ... | 78 | ... | 23 | 77 |
| 1947 | ... | 165 | ... | 130 | ... | 35 | 79 |
| 1948 | ... | 184 | ... | 146 | ... | 38 | 79 |
| 1949 | ... | 185 | ... | 157 | ... | 28 | 85 |

Tubercle Bacillus.

| | Samples taken. | | Absent. | | Present. | |
|------|----------------|-----|---------|-----|----------|---|
| 1944 | ... | 148 | ... | 147 | ... | 1 |
| 1945 | ... | 116 | ... | 112 | ... | 4 |
| 1946 | ... | 101 | ... | 99 | ... | 2 |
| 1947 | ... | 128 | ... | 125 | ... | 3 |
| 1948 | ... | 159 | ... | 157 | ... | 2 |
| 1949 | ... | 140 | ... | 137 | ... | 3 |

Further details of the year's tests will be found in Mr. Graham's report appended.

There was one pasteurising plant in the district.

Three dealers' licences were issued for Pasteurised Milk and thirteen for Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Three Supplementary licences were issued for Pasteurised Milk and five for Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Accredited Milks.

Samples of these were taken for the County Council and submitted to bacteriological tests.

Of the Accredited milk (formerly called Grade A) 33 samples were taken, of which 24 were satisfactory and 9 unsatisfactory.

The same samples tested for the Tubercle Bacillus were found to be positive in two instances and the rest found free.

Bacteriological Results.

| | Samples taken. | | Satisfactory. | | Unsatisfactory. | |
|------|----------------|----|---------------|----|-----------------|----|
| 1945 | ... | 27 | ... | 18 | ... | 9 |
| 1946 | ... | 4 | ... | 3 | ... | 1 |
| 1947 | ... | 43 | ... | 34 | ... | 9 |
| 1948 | ... | 43 | ... | 33 | ... | 10 |
| 1949 | ... | 32 | ... | 24 | ... | 9 |

Tubercle Bacillus Results.

| | Samples taken. | | absent. | | Present. | |
|------|----------------|----|---------|----|----------|------|
| 1945 | ... | 22 | ... | 21 | ... | 1 |
| 1946 | ... | 4 | ... | 4 | ... | Nil. |
| 1947 | ... | 38 | ... | 36 | ... | 2 |
| 1948 | ... | 36 | ... | 36 | ... | Nil. |
| 1949 | ... | 33 | ... | 31 | ... | 2 |

Tuberculin Tested Milks.

Of the 13 samples tested 11 were satisfactory and 2 unsatisfactory. All were found to be free of the Tubercle Bacillus.

Bacteriological Results.

| | Samples taken. | | Satisfactory. | | Unsatisfactory. | |
|------|----------------|----|---------------|----|-----------------|------|
| 1945 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 |
| 1946 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | Nil. |
| 1947 | ... | 6 | ... | 5 | ... | 1 |
| 1948 | ... | 16 | ... | 13 | ... | 3 |
| 1949 | ... | 13 | ... | 11 | ... | 2 |

Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

The 3 samples of milk found to contain the Tubercle Bacillus were reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, and by him to the Ministry of Agriculture. As a result of the investigations two animals were found diseased and slaughtered under the Order. In the third case the search was unsuccessful.

On October 1st, 1949, power was given to the Local Authority to order the Pasteurisation of milk where the presence of the Tubercle Bacillus was detected. Previously such action could only be taken by agreement with the producer. The new procedure produced greater safety for the milk-drinking public, and it was applied in one case where the milk was positive for the Tubercle Bacillus. There is still a time lag where the milk is produced in a district other than that where the milk is retailed to order the pasteurisation.

In the cases of the two Accredited Samples where the Tubercle Bacillus was found the herd was found to be free of the disease in one case, and an animal was slaughtered in the other case.

Tuberculin Tested.—Tubercle Bacillus.

| | Samples taken | | | Absent. | | Present. | |
|------|---------------|----|-----|---------|-----|----------|--|
| 1945 | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | Nil. | |
| 1946 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | Nil. | |
| 1947 | ... | 6 | ... | 6 | ... | Nil. | |
| 1948 | ... | 14 | ... | 14 | ... | Nil. | |
| 1949 | ... | 13 | ... | 13 | ... | Nil. | |

Meat and Other Foods.

The manner in which the one Slaughter House in the district was conducted has already received comment in the early part of this report.

Inspections were made almost daily, and all the animals slaughtered were inspected. Organs or portions unfit for human consumption were condemned where necessary. Further details will be found in Mr. Graham's Report.

Below is the record of horses slaughtered during the five years 1945 to 1949.

| | | |
|------|-----|------|
| 1945 | ... | 267 |
| 1946 | ... | 249 |
| 1947 | ... | 260 |
| 1948 | ... | 283. |
| 1949 | ... | 260 |

The Butchers' Shops. Regular inspections were made of the nine shops in the district. The quality of the products sold and the standard of cleanliness were satisfactory.

Bakehouses. The twelve Bakehouses were inspected for cleanliness and for the available facilities for ensuring that bread of a satisfactory bacterial purity could be produced. They were on the whole satisfactorily conducted and kept.

Hawkers' Vehicles were inspected regularly and on the whole they were satisfactory. Some of the premises from which these vehicles operated gave cause for criticism and this proved salutary in the majority of cases.

Milk Vans and Carts. These were inspected when samples of milk were taken and at other times. They were on the whole found to be in good condition.

Ice Cream. As already mentioned in this report particular attention has been paid during the year to the purity of ice cream offered for sale or produced in the district, in continuation of the policy established in former years. One further licence was granted during the year for the sale of ice cream, making ten in all. Samples were taken regularly from these and also from the itinerant vendors. These latter sellers of ice cream present a problem because they usually only appeared at week-ends when it was more difficult to obtain samples or to have them examined at the Laboratory. The samples obtained from these week-end vendors were usually of a quality below the average.

The results of the analysis, which will be found in greater detail in Mr. Graham's Report, showed a slight improvement upon those of 1948, with an upward tendency in the lower grades, but the number of lower grades found was still too large. The percentage of satisfactory samples Grades I. and II. was 79.3 as compared with 76 in 1948, thus approximating the Health Ministry figure of 80%.

The table below gives the results of tests for the year 1949.

Continual sampling and inspection of premises will, it is hoped, produce still better results. The hot weather of the summer of 1949 was unfavourable to the keeping qualities of ice cream, otherwise the results might have showed further improvement.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Number of samples taken ... | ... | ... | 82 |
| Grade I. (Excellent) ... | ... | ... | 42 |
| Grade II. (Good) ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| Grade III. (Poor) ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Grade IV. (Bad) ... | ... | ... | 2 |

Qualitative Examination of Food. The County Council is the Authority for the Food and Drugs Act. Their Sampling Officer took samples and supplied the following results. He was assisted by Mr. Graham in the taking of 45 milk samples, four of which were unsatisfactory. A total of 79 samples were taken in all, 34 other than milk comprised the following:—

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 2 Cheese. | 2 Cream of Tartar. |
| 2 Bacon. | 1 Beef Sausage. Unsatisfactory. |
| 1 Honey. | 1 Self-raising Flour. |
| 2 Glycerine. | 1 „ „ Unsatisfactory. |
| 1 Confectionery (Cakes). Unsatisfactory. | 2 Parrish's Chemical Food. |
| 2 Curry Powder. | 5 Bread. |
| 3 Camphorated Oil. | 1 Fancy Cakes. Unsatisfactory. |
| 2 Bread (Brown). | 2 Baking Powder. |
| 1 Fish, canned (Tunney). | 1 Fish, canned (Sild). |
| 1 Fish, canned (Sardines). | 1 Fish, canned (Salmon). |

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples, vendors were notified and cautioned, and one prosecution resulted in the vendor being fined; this was in connection with a sample of a fancy cake which contained 19.4% mineral oil.

Condemnation of Food Unfit for Human Consumption.

The amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption was:—939 lbs. fruit, 234 lbs. vegetables, 568 lbs. cereals, and 311 lbs. of other foods.

Water Supply.

As in previous years, the established practice of giving an extensive report of the Water Undertaking of the Authority has again been followed.

Mr. Holmes has prepared a detailed report which is appended. The bacteriological quality of water has been satisfactory, and the samples taken in practically every case showed a small residuum of chlorine present, insufficient to be perceptible to taste or smell, but sufficient to discourage the growth of harmful bacteria. The chemical qualities of the water were also satisfactory, and plumbo-solvent action was absent.

The Authority's own supply was supplemented by supplies from the Fylde Water Board and by a small addition from the Preston Corporation supply.

Sewage and Sewage Disposal.

There was no change in the method of disposal during the year. The North side of the district is still unsewered and was served by septic tanks, many of which overflow into the small streams running through the district. This gave rise to offensive odours during the dry spells in 1949 when the stream flow was reduced in volume. This position cannot be regarded as satisfactory, and the provision of a proper sewerage scheme for this area must be considered as one of some urgency.

Rivers and Streams.

The County Council through its Rivers Board is responsible for the brooks and streams in the district. Surveys were made of various streams in the area by the Local Authority, and obstructions were cleared or defects remedied where necessary. The banks were frequently fouled by the overflow from septic tanks. In the banks of one stream where an overflow pipe from a number of houses is built in, there was subsidence which broke the pipe line.

Closet Accommodation.

The water carriage system was universal throughout the District in 1949:—

Number of houses supplied with water—3,557.

Number of houses on the water carriage system—3,544.

Number of fresh water closets—3,699.

Number of privy middens—4.

Number of pail closets—9.

Public Cleansing.

There were 4,378 ashbins and one ashpit in the district. These were emptied weekly. The Department of the Engineer and Surveyor is responsible for this work, and also for the collection of salvage.

Sanitary Inspections in the District.

The details of the inspections carried out in the year 1949 will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report appended. In the same report will be found a detailed account of the general sanitary work carried out and of improvements made.

Housing.

During the year under review six new houses were completed, and a further twelve Council and nine private houses were in course of erection at the end of the year.

Additional accommodation was provided by the provision of 5 flats.

Comment on future trends of housing accommodation has been made earlier in the report.

The number of houses inspected for defects was 256, an increase on the previous year, and necessitating 740 visits. Seven houses were found to be in a state unfit for human habitation. As a result of notices served, improvements necessary at 114 houses were completed without further action. One house which had been the subject of a demolition order was demolished. Further details of the defects found and the action taken will be found in Mr. Graham's report.

Overcrowding.

Five cases of overcrowding, in which 26 persons were concerned, were abated during the year.

Five new cases of overcrowding came to light as a result of visits paid to premises occupied by applicants for Council houses. Some 23 applications have been dealt with for the Housing Subcommittee. The Sanitary Inspector has visited and made reports; upon these reports recommendations have been made for the assistance of the Committee.

School Accommodation.

Overcrowding in the existing schools was still present. Efforts were made to remedy this position but the problem was not solved. At the end of the year one new senior school was well on its way towards completion of structure. This will do something to relieve the pressure on the available accommodation but will not cure it. The building of further new schools and the enlargement of existing ones will be necessary; they are laid down in the development plan for the immediate future.

Factories Act.

There were 27 Factories on the register, and 61 inspections were made to these premises. Improvements were made at three of them.

Road Improvement.

Greystock Avenue and a portion of Lytham Road were made up and surfaced during the year.

Smoke Abatement.

During the year complaints were received of the excessive amount of black smoke emitted from two chimneys in the district, though the majority of the complaints referred to one in particular.

Many observations and tests were made and endeavours to improve the methods of use of the firing plants. As a result one of the chimneys was definitely improved, but still gave cause for complaint at times. The other, in spite of new equipment and improved methods of firing, continued to be a nuisance.

Bye-laws are in contemplation to establish more adequate powers to deal with these complaints.

The poor quality of coal supplied in many cases made a contribution to the nuisance.

Rodent Reports.

A report by Mr. Marsh on the work he has carried out to control rodents is appended.

Appended Reports.

(1) Report of Mr. Graham, Sanitary Inspector.

(2) Report of Mr. Holmes, Water Engineer.

(3) Report of Mr. Marsh, Rodent Operator.

The work of Mr. Graham has been of outstanding value to the inhabitants of this district who have continued to seek his advice and counsel freely, and I desire to pay tribute to the efficiency and courtesy with which he performs his duties. Miss Stirzaker has kept the office records in excellent fashion, and her control of the office and correspondence is a model of efficiency. Mr. Marsh discharged his work as Rodent Operator, as Disinfector and general assistant to Mr. Graham with quiet efficiency and zeal.

The co-operation and assistance of the other officials of the Council has been much appreciated.

In conclusion I should like to express my appreciation for the courtesy, encouragement and support extended to me by every member of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G. G. WRAY.

September, 1950.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT — 1949.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council,

In my report for the year 1949 I have again given tabulated figures of environmental public health visits and the results of notices and advice, with comments where deemed necessary.

Milk sampling results and the bacteriological grading of Ice Cream samples are shown side by side with the results of the two previous years.

Details of Sanitary Inspections, 1949.

| Type of Premises. | | | | | | No. of Visits | No. of Premises | No. of Public Health Nuisances and Defects | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|-----------------------|---|--------|----|-----|----|
| | | | | | | | | Existing | Abated | | | |
| Licensed Slaughter House | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 251 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 2 |
| Farms | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 174 | ... | 49 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Dairies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 67 | ... | 8 | ... | 3 | ... | 1 |
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 57 | ... | 12 | ... | 3 | ... | 3 |
| Ice Cream Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 69 | ... | 9 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Other Food Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 103 | ... | 34 | ... | 4 | ... | 4 |
| Factory Act | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 61 | ... | 27 | ... | 3 | ... | 3 |
| Institutions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 41 | ... | 7 | ... | 3 | ... | 3 |
| Schools | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 | ... | 5 | ... | 3 | ... | 3 |
| Houses—Advisory visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 105 | ... | 79 | ... | 19 | ... | 17 |
| „ Drainage | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 341 | ... | 92 | ... | 64 | ... | 64 |
| „ General Defects | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 294 | ... | 85 | ... | 59 | ... | 33 |
| Housing Applications | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 | ... | 23 | ... | 10 | ... | 5 |
| Infectious Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 62 | ... | 38 | ... | 22 | ... | 22 |
| Rodent Control | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 616 | ... | 312 | ... | 77 | ... | 71 |
| Shops Act ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 65 | ... | 65 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 166 | ... | 89 | ... | 29 | ... | 25 |
| Total | | | | | | 2,526 | 935 | 304 | 259 | | | |

The total number of premises visited and the total number of visits paid have been rather more than in 1948.

Rodent control has accounted for the greatest increase owing to the requirement of the Ministry of Agriculture that regular survey of premises be made, if half the cost of rodent control to the Local Authority is to be reimbursed.

Mr. Marsh, Rodent Operator, has given details of his rodent work in a separate report, but he has rendered equally valuable service in other branches of the Department's work.

Fewer visits have been paid to farms since the Ministry of Agriculture took over the responsibility for milk production, but a larger number of other food premises have been visited.

I have also made for the first time 65 Shops Act Inspections for the Lancashire County Council as requested by this Authority.

The 5 cases not abated under "Housing Applications" are cases of overcrowding, which the Housing Committee will consider as houses become available, and the other 40 outstanding nuisances or defects are only slightly in excess of the number normally dealt with at any one time.

Details of Sanitary Improvements effected at dwelling houses during the year, mainly as a result of informal or statutory notice, are given below:—

| Sanitary Improvements. | | | | | | Number of Premises. | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|--|
| Bins provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | |
| Brickwork repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 | |
| Disinfections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 | |
| Drains cleared | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32 | |
| Drains repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 43 | |
| Gutters renewed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | |
| Plasterwork renewed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | |
| Premises cleansed or disinfested | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | |
| Roofs repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | |
| Sanitary Accommodation improved | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 | |
| Ventilation improved | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 | |
| Water Pipes repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | |
| Woodwork renewed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 | |
| Sundry Public Health nuisances abated | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 | |

Three Statutory and 147 Informal Notices were served, with 32 outstanding at the year end.

Milk Production and Distribution.

During the last quarter of the year the responsibility for statutory and advisory work on milk production passed from Local Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture, but the Local Authorities are still the only regular official samplers, except in the case of designated herds, whose milk is also sampled monthly, by the Ministry.

Results of Various Tests to which Milk Samples were Submitted.

The Samples Marked "T.T." and Accredited were taken for the Lancashire County Council.

Designation.

Sediment Test for Cleanliness.

| | Total. | | | Passed. | | | Failed. | | |
|----------------------|--------|------|------|---------|------|------|---------|------|------|
| | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 |
| "T.T." | 6 | 16 | 17 | 6 | 16 | 17 | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. |
| Accredited | 43 | 43 | 39 | 38 | 43 | 37 | 5 | Nil. | 2 |
| Other samples | 165 | 184 | 110 | 143 | 171 | 103 | 22 | 13 | 7 |
| TOTAL | 214 | 243 | 166 | 187 | 230 | 157 | 27 | 13 | 9 |
| PERCENTAGE | | | | 88 | 94.7 | 94.6 | 12 | 5.3 | 5.4 |

Designation.

Bacillus Coli Test.

| | Total. | | | Passed. | | | Failed. | | |
|----------------------|--------|------|------|---------|------|------|---------|------|------|
| | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 |
| "T.T." | 6 | 16 | 13 | 6 | 14 | 10 | Nil. | 2 | 3 |
| Accredited | 43 | 43 | 33 | 37 | 39 | 31 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Other samples | 165 | 184 | 185 | 148 | 162 | 158 | 17 | 22 | 27 |
| TOTAL | 214 | 243 | 231 | 191 | 215 | 199 | 23 | 28 | 32 |
| PERCENTAGE | | | | 89.2 | 88.5 | 86.2 | 10.8 | 11.5 | 13.8 |

Designation.

Methylene Blue Test.

| | Total. | | | Passed. | | | Failed. | | |
|----------------------|--------|------|------|---------|------|------|---------|------|------|
| | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 |
| " T.T." | 6 | 16 | 13 | 5 | 13 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Accredited | 43 | 43 | 33 | 34 | 33 | 24 | 9 | 10 | 9 |
| Other samples | 165 | 184 | 185 | 130 | 146 | 157 | 35 | 38 | 28 |
| TOTAL | 214 | 243 | 231 | 169 | 192 | 192 | 45 | 51 | 39 |
| PERCENTAGE | | | | 79 | 79 | 83 | 21 | 21 | 17 |

Designation.

Tubercle Bacillus.

| | Total. | | | Passed. | | | Failed. | | |
|----------------------|--------|------|------|---------|------|------|---------|------|------|
| | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 |
| " T.T." | 6 | 14 | 13 | 6 | 14 | 13 | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. |
| Accredited | 38 | 36 | 33 | 36 | 36 | 31 | 2 | Nil. | 2 |
| Other samples | 128 | 159 | 140 | 125 | 157 | 137 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| TOTAL | 172 | 209 | 186 | 167 | 207 | 181 | 5 | 2 | 5 |
| PERCENTAGE | | | | 97.1 | 99.0 | 97.3 | 2.9 | 1.0 | 2.7 |

The samples were taken from the 32 farmers and dairymen retailing in the district, and also during the first three quarters of the year from the 27 Fulwood producers not selling their production within the district.

These sampling results do not show any marked change, but it should be noted that the largest number of samples are taken from vendors whose product has failed one or more of the tests, and such failures are not always corrected at the first re-sampling.

It is probable, therefore, that the percentage of satisfactory milk sold in the district is considerably higher than the percentage of satisfactory samples in these tables.

There was no decrease in the incidence of tuberculosis in samples of milk from either Accredited or Undesignated herds in the district round Fulwood over the last five years.

OTHER FOODS.

Horse Meat.

There is one slaughter house licensed by the Local Authority for the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

This has been visited daily throughout the year on occasions when horses have been slaughtered; the carcasses of 260 horses have been inspected and have been passed as fit for human consumption, with the exception of 55 livers, 4 heads and 106 lbs. of meat.

The " Report of the Departmental Committee on Export and Slaughter of Horses " was issued recently, having been presented to Parliament in March, 1950, by the Minister of Agriculture and the Secretary of State for Scotland.

During 1949 the Fulwood Slaughter House was visited by members of this Committee, whose report upon it contained the following opening and closing paragraphs.

" Very well constructed and spotlessly clean; first-class interior equipment;" . . . " In every respect slaughter house and arrangements for care of horses prior to slaughter leave nothing to be desired." Although I could not always endorse the opinion expressed, it is very encouraging to know that the efforts of the Fulwood Council to bring the premises up to the desired standard have not been entirely unsuccessful.

Pigs.

A number of pigs slaughtered privately and not for sale have been inspected by arrangement with the owners as in previous years, and any meat found unfit for human consumption has been voluntarily surrendered.

Meat Products.

There have been frequent visits to premises where these products are manufactured in the district; producers are aware of their responsibilities and are endeavouring to maintain a high standard in their premises, personnel and product.

Bakehouses and Restaurant Kitchens.

Most of these premises are satisfactory, but in a few cases bad arrangement and insufficient space to extend premises make working conditions difficult.

Ice Cream.

One manufacturer and nine retailers in the district are visited at frequent intervals and their product sampled for bacterial quality.

The produce of eleven different manufacturers has been sampled, and results show steady improvement in the percentage of satisfactory samples (Grades I. and II.).

The best results have been from the local product, with all samples satisfactory, and the worst results from unwrapped ice cream sold by itinerant hawkers. Ten of these samples were taken and only half of them were satisfactory, with One Grade I., Four Grade II., Three Grade III., and Two Grade IV. results.

Retailers have been notified of the grading and quality of their respective samples, and neighbouring Local Authorities also have been informed of results from manufacturers in their districts.

Grading of Ice Cream Samples Submitted for Analysis.

| Ice Cream | No. of Samples | | | Grade I | | | Grade II | | | Grade III | | | Grade IV | | |
|---------------|----------------|----|----|---------|----|------|----------|----|----|-----------|----|------|----------|----|-----|
| | 1947 | 48 | 49 | 1947 | 48 | 49 | 1947 | 48 | 49 | 1947 | 48 | 49 | 1947 | 48 | 49 |
| Local Product | 13 | 13 | 12 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Nil | Nil | 1 | Nil |
| Other Samples | 38 | 53 | 70 | 12 | 27 | 32 | 9 | 12 | 21 | 9 | 9 | 15 | 8 | 5 | 2 |
| Total | 51 | 66 | 82 | 19 | 35 | 42 | 13 | 15 | 23 | 11 | 10 | 15 | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| Percentage | | | | 31 | 53 | 51.3 | 25.5 | 23 | 28 | 21.5 | 15 | 18.3 | 16 | 9 | 2.4 |

| Percentage | Satisfactory. | Unsatisfactory. |
|------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1947 ... | 62.5% | 37.5% |
| 1948 ... | 76.0% | 24.0% |
| 1949 ... | 79.3% | 20.7% |

The following 2,033 lbs. of food was surrendered after being inspected and found unfit for human consumption. Much of it was at N.A.A.F.I. premises at the Barracks, where, in addition to the grocer's shop and restaurant there is still a large warehouse supplying units in the North West.

Vegetables—

| | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| Carrots | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 lbs. |
| Onions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 lbs. |
| Swedes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40 lbs. |
| Tomatoes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 145 lbs. |
| | | | | | | — = 234 lbs. |

Fruit—

| | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| Apricots | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 lbs. |
| Apples | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 213 lbs. |
| Cherries | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 lbs. |
| Grapefruit | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 167 lbs. |
| Oranges | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 297 lbs. |
| Peaches | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 lbs. |
| Pears ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 192 lbs. |
| Plums ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 lbs. |
| Prunes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 lbs. |
| | | | | | | — = 919 lbs. |

Cereals—

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Barley Flakes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 568 lbs. |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|

Proteins—

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| Chickens | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 95 lbs. |
| Eggs ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32 lbs. |
| Evaporated Milk | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 42 lbs. |
| Rabbits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 lbs. |
| Sausage | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 61 lbs. |
| | | | | | | — = 244 lbs. |

Sundries—

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Mustard | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 lbs. |
| Pickles | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 lbs. |
| Sage ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 lbs. |
| Sugar Confectionery | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 lbs. |
| Synthetic Cream | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 lbs. |
| | | | | | | — = 67 lbs. |

Housing Act.

In addition to the many visits to houses for the remedying of defects by informal notice or under the Public Health Act, one house has been demolished as an individual unfit house, and a preliminary survey made of six other houses which are in a dilapidated and insanitary condition and are probably economically beyond repair.

General.

A considerable amount of time has been given to an installation causing smoke nuisance and assistance has been given by experts from a neighbouring Authority and from the Ministry of Fuel and Power, but with fuel and stoking methods not always of the best, and some overloading of the plant, the prospects of entirely removing the nuisance are somewhat remote.

Unmade roads, vacant plots of building land used as rubbish dumps, and lack of sewerage to the Northern part of the district, are other outstanding causes of Public Health nuisance which cannot readily be cured.

One important change occurred at the end of the year, when office equipment and furniture were removed to new premises in Lytham Road.

In conclusion, I should like to acknowledge with thanks the support and confidence of the Chairman and members of the Council and the Medical Officer of Health, and the help and co-operation given me by my colleagues.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT GRAHAM.

July, 1950.

FULWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Water Supply, 1949.

The total supplied throughout the distribution area amounted to 353,293,000 gallons, equivalent to an average daily consumption of 968,000 gallons.

The Council's Consultant Analyst, Mr. S. E. Melling, M.Sc., F.R.I.C., took eighteen samples for bacteriological analysis from various points in the distribution system and from the reservoirs, the results being as follows:—

B. Coli absent in 100 c.cs.—16 samples.

1 B. Coli—aërogenes present in 100 c.cs.—2 samples. Refs. 216(b), 217.

The Analyst's opinion on the two "positive" counts being as follows:—"Such borderline quality is not to be regarded as serious, although the presence of any member of the Coli-aërogenes group cannot be ignored. I think it would be well to have the post chlorination (or post chloramination) 'stepped up' slightly, and then a further test can be taken—say a week hence."

His report on the sample taken a fortnight later was, "I am satisfied that the waters are of wholesome bacteriological quality."

Plumbo-solvency trials were carried out on the 24th January, the results being as follows:—

"pH 6.9 with alkalinity 1.6 parts per 100,000 (as Ca Co₃). The lead taken up in 24 hours at 15.5°C, amounted to 0.12 part per 100,000, or approximately one-twelfth of a grain per gallon." The Analyst's summing-up of the results was, "By systematic personal, independent supervision of the quality of water passing to the consumer, I am satisfied that the supply is free from suspicion in this relation."

The inlet waters to the Barnsfold Reservoirs were subjected to Chloramine treatment to ensure, as far as possible, a chlorine residual of the order of 0.6 p.p.m. at the inlet cills to the reservoirs.

At the Reservoir's outlet the water was further treated with chloramine, the injected dose varying between 0.10 and 0.20 p.p.m., ensuring a chlorine residual throughout the distribution system.

Three thousand five hundred and eighty-three premises and eight institutions within the Urban District are supplied with water from the mains; there are no houses without a supply. During the year 104 new supplies were provided for all purposes.

The rainfall for the year at Barnsfold was 46.91 inches, with 38.66 inches recorded at Haighton Reservoir. The daily and monthly rainfall records for these two gauges were forwarded to the Meteorological Office. The driest month was June with 1.29 inches recorded, and the longest dry period was 21 days. The wettest month was December with 7.44 inches, the wettest day being 13th July with 1.30 inches.

The minimum quantity in storage amounted to 37.5 million gallons, on 22nd February, as against 43 million gallons in 1948.

The maximum daily consumption, recorded at Barnsfold, occurred on the 5th November, and amounted to 1,135,000 gallons. The average daily consumption, 968,000 gallons, showed an increase of 1.31% over 1948 and 2.12% over 1947. The "take" from Fylde Water Board also showed an increase, due partly to the low level of the Reservoirs at the commencement of the year, and being 136 million gallons against 86 million gallons in 1948, and 109 million gallons in 1947.

Once again a large number of bursts occurred on distribution mains, the total of 16 being analysed as follows:—

One 6in. main. Three 4in. mains. Ten 3in. mains. Two 2in. mains.

The bursts are largely due to the age and condition of the pipes, many of which have been in position between sixty and seventy years.

Mains extensions were carried out to link Garrison Road and Victoria Road, and to meet housing requirements at Beacon Drive, Whittingham Lane, Goosnargh. These involved the laying of 112 yards of 4in. spun iron pipes and 270 yards of 3in. Asbestos cement pipes.

Under the heading of routine maintenance the following general summary gives some idea of the work entailed.

No. of inspections at consumers' premises—683.

No. of stop cocks cleaned—50.

No. of sieves cleaned—264.

No. of mains fittings (valves, hydrants, etc.) repaired—143.

No. of mains flushed—670.

No. of service leakages repaired—177.

No. of new service connections—104.

No. of fittings rewashered—1,154.

During the spring the whole of the distribution system was subjected to night waste inspections which had not been possible for a considerable time previously. On the whole the amount of waste through service leakages, faulty fittings, etc., was surprisingly small.

Typical Analysis based on Sample taken at Lower House Farm, 3-50 p.m., 25/11/49.

| Chemical Analysis. | | | | Parts per 100,000. |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Total solid matters dried at 105°C | ... | ... | ... | 11.2 |
| Total hardness | ... | ... | ... | 4.5 |
| Temporary hardness | ... | ... | ... | 1.8 |
| Permanent hardness | ... | ... | ... | 2.7 |
| Combined chlorine | ... | ... | ... | 1.6 |
| Toxic metals | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |
| Ammoniacal nitrogen | ... | ... | ... | 0.004 |
| Albuminoid nitrogen | ... | ... | ... | 0.015 |
| Nitrous nitrogen (nitrates) | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |
| Nitric nitrogen (nitrates) | ... | ... | ... | 0.05 |
| Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 26.7°C. | ... | ... | ... | 0.241 |

Physical Character.

The sample, although clear, possessed a slight yellowish cast, it was free from odour and particulate solids.

Hazen value 30 pH 6.6

Bacteriological Examinations.

B. Coli aërogenes:—In the full range of 11 volumes taken, negative results were obtained in each of these 3 samples, with a probable number of 0 per 100 c.c.

Plate count upon incubation through 48 hours at 37°C:—12 colonies developing. Although the count is somewhat high, there is no evidence upon which it could be said that the sample is other than of wholesome quality.

NORMAN HOLMES, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.Mun.E.,

Waterworks Engineer.

5th May, 1950.

RODENT REPORT, 1949.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council,

During the year 1949, 75 complaints of infestation by rodents were received, 55 being rat infestation and 20 mice infestation; 40 treatments were carried out on rats and 19 on mice. Treatment by poison resulted in an estimated kill of 234 rats, 101 bodies being found. The use of traps resulted in a kill of 30 rats. Twenty-six mice were killed by poison and 58 by traps.

Treatments were done at two schools (Children's Homes), and major infestations reduced to minor ones.

The Council's Tip at Fulwood Row was treated periodically and infestation kept to a low level. Poisons used in all treatments were Arsenic, Zinc Phosphide and Red Squill. A major infestation at the Council's Sewerage Works at Cottam was treated and reduced to a minor one.

Seventy-five premises were visited after receipt of complaints, and 310 visits were made during treatment. A survey of premises adjoining those infested was done, and 312 visits were made.

Test Baiting and Maintenance treatments were done on the Council's Sewers, and results showed only slight infestation, the estimated kill being 20 rats. In cases where infestation occurred through defects in property, advice on proofing against re-infestation was given by the Rodent Officer (Mr. Graham), and in most cases the advice was acted upon. A few cases where the advice given was ignored, re-infestation occurred. Co-operation by householders was very good and enabled me to clear infestations quickly.

Thanking you for your trust and confidence.

Yours respectfully,

June, 1950.

JOHN J. MARSH.

